

The Crittenden Press.

VOLUME XIII

MARION, CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, APRIL 27, 1893.

NUMBER 43

AS GOOD AS GOLD.

SECRETARY CARLISLE SAYS
THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIT
WILL BE PRESERVED.

An Important Statement in Re-
gard to the Secretary's
Financial Policy.

Washington, April 20.—Secretary Carlisle to-night made the following statement regarding the financial situation: "In the exercise of the discretionary powers conferred upon the Secretary of the Treasury by the act of July 14, 1890, he has been paying gold for the coin Treasury notes issued for the purchase of silver bullion, and he will continue to do so as long as he has gold lawfully available for the purpose. Under this process the Government has been and is now paying gold for silver bullion and storing the silver in its vaults, where it is as useless for any purpose of circulation and redemption as iron, lead or any other commodity.

"The Government, in the first place, issues a coin Treasury note in payment for silver bullion, and then the coin Treasury note is presented at a sub-Treasury and the gold is paid out for it; so that the effect is precisely the same as if the gold were paid directly for the silver in the first instance. About \$800,000 of the gold which was withdrawn from the sub-Treasury on last Tuesday for shipment abroad was paid out on these coin Treasury notes. No order has been made to stop the payment of gold upon these notes; nor has any one been authorized to say that such an order would be issued.

"The purpose of the Government to preserve its own credit unimpaired and maintain the parity of the two metals by all lawful means will not be abandoned under any circumstances. In view of the existing legislation, the only question for consideration is as to the measures that ought to be adopted to insure the accomplishment of these purposes, and upon this question there is, of course, room for wide differences of opinion.

"The total stock of gold coin and gold bullion owned by the Treasury, including what is held by the banks as well as what is held by the Treasury, amounts to about \$740,000,000. When I came into the Treasury Department on the 7th day of March, the amount of free gold on hand had been reduced to \$987,000, but by arrangements with Western banks it was increased until, on the 1st of April, it amounted to nearly \$8,000,000. Then heavy shipments began to be made, and two days ago we had only about \$40,000, but now it amounts to \$885,000, after deducting what has been withdrawn from the sub-Treasury to-day for shipment.

"Arrangements are now in progress by which more gold is to be procured from the West, and it is hoped that a sufficient quantity will be secured to keep the gold reserve intact. There is gold enough in the country to meet all the requirements of the situation, and if all who are really interested to maintain a sound and stable currency would assist the Secretary of the Treasury to the extent of their abilities, the existing difficulties would soon be removed.

In addition to this statement Secretary Carlisle said that \$800,000 in gold had been taken out of the sub-Treasury in New York to-day for export. The class of money paid into the sub-Treasury for this gold was drawn included \$400,000 in gold certificates, which to this amount did not reduce the gold reserve, because they themselves were practically gold. So the actual gold reduction of the day was only \$400,000, leaving the balance as stated above. This is the first considerable amount of gold certificates paid into the sub-Treasury for gold export for many years, and encourages Treasury officials to hope that the banks, seeing the situation, will continue to present gold certificates in part payment at least for gold withdrawn for export.

plenty of grit and an iron will to set his face against Wall street. Carlisle is the bravest man of his own opinions and the courage to enforce them that has been in the Treasury since I can remember."

This opinion is voiced everywhere and wagers of odds on are being made that Carlisle down Wall street before the month is out.

"It is nothing but an organized effort by a party of sharp brokers to force an issue of bonds," said Senator Cockrell. The Senator spoke with great emphasis. "These people came very near controlling Foster, and now they are after Carlisle. I hope Carlisle will fight them to the last. I believe he will, and if he does he will win. Of course these men would like to bring about a bond issue. The more the merrier. They would get a commission for their negotiation, and they would serve as a further prop and argument for national banks. They would continue that ring would, if unchecked, until the national banks were given complete control of the entire paper issue of the Government."

"If I were Carlisle, I would pay gold with nothing but the gold certificates," continued the senator; "if they brought me a check, or in fact anything but the plain gold certificates, they should get nothing but silver. They that this would bring back our securities now in Europe. What of it? There is plenty of money here, which, in its illness, goes to gambling in the stock markets and the Board of Trade, which could snap them up in a moment. Once before in the late '70s, when we passed a silver law, our securities came trooping over from Europe, and it was the best thing that ever happened to us. They say, too, that a refusal to pay gold for greenbacks at the Treasury would provoke a panic. I don't believe it. It is simply a threat. This very ring which is reaching for the Treasury's throat right now would no more dare create a panic than anybody else. They would be the first to suffer. But even a panic is better than some things. It is better than surrendering the nation's finances to the control of a clique, and I sincerely hope that Carlisle will risk the worst before he ever does it." It is a pretty fight and the President is the most interested of all the spectators.



Of all the famous people coming over to the World's Fair none has a better claim upon us and will be more welcome than the Duke, of Veragua, his wife and daughter, who are now here as the nation's guests. That he should be here is indeed fitting, since in his veins runs the blood of the discover of America. The duke himself is 66 years old, and has for many years been in public life. He has several times been Minister of State in his native country—Spain. Though well off, the Duke is not as rich as some of the other Spanish families, who were already wealthy when Columbus discovered this continent. The Duke's wife and daughter are now in Washington; they go about as quietly as possible as he is not anxious to attract attention. A hearty welcome to the Duke of Veragua.

Echoes of the "Ram's Horn."

A poet is a man who shows others what God shows him.

Some shepherds pay the most attention to the fattest sheep.

It is hard for the shepherd to fatten the sheep that prefer to live on husks.

There are men who starve their children to help the brewer to fatten his horses.

Crushing a rose always gives it a chance to speak louder and say more about itself.

The saloons will never be wiped out while so many church members wear long faces.

People who wear loud clothes are doing their best to make up for some conscious lack.

What do you suppose angels think of the preacher who is always looking for an easy place?

It never does a preacher any good for the impression to get out that he is proud of his learning.

Some birds are so taken up with their bright plumage as to forget that they have very black feet.

TO OBLITERATE SIN.

The Terribly Severe Penance to
Which This Peculiar Order
Subject Themselves.

All the Horrors of the Penitents
Put Into Practice.

(San Francisco Examiner.)

How many Americans know that in their own country is an order whose members yearly represent Christ's journey to his crucifixion by bearing crosses of crushing weight along paths of cruel stones and cactus to a mimic Calvary? How many know that American voters, men who help to choose the President of the United States, are crucified, are bound by biting thorns, are nailed to crosses and suffer unto death.

The village of Taos, in Northern New Mexico, for many years the home of Kit Carson, is one of the strongholds of the Penitents. Hidden away in a little valley among the Rockies, shut off from the railroad on the east by seventy-five miles of mountains and separated from the iron highway on the west by thirty-five miles of mesa and the awful canon of the Rio Grande, this little hamlet of Mexicans, with scarcely a dozen Americans among them, is not of the nineteenth century, and feels few of its influences. Taos and its neighborhood are said to have about 1,000 Penitents, including many women, and here their practices are carried to the extreme. Among the residents is a Methodist missionary who was an administrator of the estate of Pablo Ortega, a Penitente who died near Taos; his effects were found books explaining the rites of the order, and the missionary has since made a careful study of this curious fanaticism.

The name of the order is "Los Hermanos Penitentes" (the Penitent Brothers). They are popularly known by the single word Penitentes. The order was established in Spain three or four hundred years ago, and it is said that originally its members did not practice scourging or crucifixion. The custom of self-whipping, however, has been borrowed from the Flagellants, and the practice of crucifixion is now actually carried out.

The Penitents for a long time used the churches for their meetings. Of late the Bishops have forbidden this, and now the brothers have their "moradas" outside the town.

During most of the year the Penitentes are so quiet that their silent "moradas," with broken crosses scattered about them, are the only evidences of their existence. With the beginning of Lent they renew their activity with ceremonies and processions, which reach their climax during Holy Week. In those exercises liable to be seen by spectators the brothers doing penance try to conceal their identity by black cloths thrown over the head and tied about the neck. Of late years the younger generation has developed many unbelievers, whose scoffing seems to hurt the Penitentes more than their self-imposed tortures. The Brothers may also have some fear of the displeasures of the Church, and it is quite probable they wish to mystify the people, but it is generally known among their friends who the Penitentes are.

During the early part of Lent the performances of the Penitentes are comparatively mild, but in Holy Week all the horrors of this peculiar order are put into practice. On a hillcock at some distance from the brotherhood house is planted a cross to represent Calvary. The crowning event occurs on Holy Friday, when the anniversary of Christ's death is celebrated with a drama of the crucifixion. The event opens with a procession from the "morada" to the hillcock representing Calvary. There are cross-bearers, flagellants, and numerous women and children, all led by the fife, while the reader of prayers is somewhere in the midst. The procession halts at short intervals to "make the stations of the cross," and the women and children kneel while they repeat a short prayer.

At Calvary the cross-bearers lie at full length, with the heavy beams laid upon their backs, while the "pitores" pipes and the attendant sing. Then the procession returns to the "morada," the brothers going inside for a few minutes meditation and the women waiting outside. These pilgrimages are repeated until afternoon, when the climax of this strange drama is reached.

When the time for the crucifixion has arrived the "hermano mayor" (chief brother) and an assistant enter the "morada" and return with the victim. He is entirely naked except for a pair of cotton drawers and a bag over his head. He is led to the place of crucifixion, perhaps a newly selected Calvary, and the procession follows.

At Taos he is a volunteer. In some places he is selected by lot. "El Calvario" has been prepared for the ceremony. A huge cross lies upon the earth, and at its base is an excavation. The victim walks firmly to the cross and lies down upon it full length, his back to the standard and his arms outstretched upon the cross beam. Several "Hermanos de Luz" (Brothers of Light), who attend flagellants but do not scourge themselves, take a stout hempen rope and lash the arms and legs of the prostrate Penitente to the cross. They draw the bonds so tightly that the strands sink into the flesh, but not a whimper is heard.

If he is particularly courageous and fanatical he may rebel at this method of undressing in the open. He may cry out: "For the love of God, do not dishonor me! Not with a rope! Nail me! For the love of God, nail me!"

In former years it was a common practice to spike these deluded beings to the cross. Deaths among the crucified were not uncommon then, and on Holy Friday within the past decade four Penitentes were killed in this manner at points not far from Taos. Public sentiment has slowly modified this custom. The chief brother now determines whether or not the subject shall be nailed, and in most places it is no longer permitted. It is probably within the bounds of truth to say that nailing to the cross is now practiced only in a few Mexican hamlets so remote from railroads as to be outside the pale of modern influences.

At Taos several Mexicans are pointed out as Penitentes who have been crucified with spikes and survived, and the statement has corroboration on small scars on the hands, which may be seen by an investigator with sufficient patience to watch for opportunities.

Ropes are wound about the top of the cross to serve later as guys, and several Brothers of Light slowly raise the ponderous beam into an upright position. Its base slips into the excavation, and as it nears the perpendicular drops into the hole with a shock that must cause the crucified one excruciating pain, but he gives forth no sound. The cross is then steadied by the guy ropes, and the house rocks are thrown into place, suffering them to attempt to destroy the agonies of the crucified man. Hardened as the Penitentes are to such scenes, an intense hush falls upon the group standing about with eyes lifted in reverent awe to the central figure. The afternoon sun beams on the scene with Southern fervency, the hills lend their solitude to the drama, and there is seldom a bird or even a cricket in this land of barren rock and fruitless sand to break the silence.

The weight of the hanging man causes the binding ropes to sink deep into the arms and legs. The surrounding flesh swells into great, ghastly pulps. The blood stops circulating. The skin assumes a purple hue, then turns slowly to a black. Some of the onlookers kneel, and their lips move in silent prayer. Near by a penitent brother may be lying on a bed of cactus, or suffering some other torture without a sound. From the brows of the officers, clasped in crowns of cactus drops of blood trickle down and smear their faces. The moments drag along with painful weariness. They seem to have lengthened into hours, but in reality it may be only twenty or thirty minutes until the chief brother gives the sign to lower the cross.

The Brothers of Light quickly loose the bonds of the crucified one, and the bloodless form is picked up by two assistants, each putting a shoulder under one arm, and the march to the "morada" is begun. Perhaps the body gives evidences of life and consciousness; the legs slowly move, as though to walk, but the effort is too feeble for any practical use, except to show that the spirit of life still animates the swollen, bruised blackened body.

At the "morada" the crucified brother is rudely nursed into strength. Sometimes the body picked from the cross gives no sign of life, and is never seen in public after it is carried into the "morada."

Corner lots in Jerusalem may have a novel sound to real estate dealers, but it looks as if they would yet hold a place in the speculative market. Land a mile out of Jerusalem that thirty years ago sold for a dollar an acre has been bought by the company owning the new Jaffa and Jerusalem railway—a fifty-three-mile line of road—for some \$3,000 an acre. Bethlehem and Beit Jela furnished most of the stone-cutters for the new railroad. Imagine a strike ordered by the Bethlehem Stone-cutters' Union to secure 90 instead of 80 cents a day.

Minnesota had a foot snow on the 19th.

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W. L. CLEMENT, Tolu, Ky.

PAUL REVERE'S RIDE.

Lexington, Mass., Celebrates the
118th Anniversary.

Lexington, Mass., April 19.—The citizens of this historic town are today celebrating the 118th anniversary of the firing of the "shot heard around the world." The town is in gala dress and everybody is out on pleasure bent. The celebration is the most successful the old town has held since the 100th anniversary in 1875. At 2:30 a. m. the people were aroused by the trumpet blasts of "Paul Revere," impersonated by Mr. Hart Lowe, of Lexington, who rode over the whole route taken by the famous rider.

At 6 a. m. there was a procession. At 8:30 a. m. a cavalcade consisting of leading citizens of Lexington, uniformed in the attractive costume of the Old Continentals, met a large representation of the Massachusetts Bicycle Club at the Arlington line and escorted them to Lexington Common. This club ran from Boston to Lexington over the same route taken by Paul Revere 118 years ago. At 10:30 a. m. a citizens' entertainment was given in the Town Hall, and this afternoon there were literary exercises in the same hall, consisting of an address by the Hon. Alfred S. Roe, of Worcester, a poem by Mr. Henry O'Meara, of Boston, and singing by the children of the public schools. A grand reception by the Lexington Historical Society closed the celebration this evening.

CHINAMEN AND OPIUM.

Both Smuggled Into the United
States On the Pacific Coast.

Theoma, Wash., April 19.—Sensational charges of wholesale smuggling of both Chinamen and opium follow upon the heels of the stand taken by the United States Government in refusing to admit Chinamen on certificates of identification, or allow Chinese actors, claiming they are to participate in the World's Fair display of their country, to land. It now transpires that the United States officials have been watching the opium that has been coming in and winked at by custom officials.

Last evening a demand was made upon Bob Eigham, a local politician and hotelkeeper, for certain criminal documents held by him. These papers were part of a bundle claimed by Inspector Cadden, and said to have been found by Eigham under a bed in his house. The bed has been occupied by Vaght Moore, of Portland, Ore., and Moore, it is claimed, has been at the head of the smugglers, and one of the parties who has been found in forging Chinese passports as by the hundred. Moore's partner in Portland is a relative of a peer in the Government official, who, in turn, it is claimed, has come in for a large share of a total of over \$100,000 used annually for over two years in carrying on a wholesale smuggling business. Cadden affirms that the largest "divvy" known to have been made was given United States Treasury officials, who were paid at a rate of \$14,400 a year, with other customs officials, who received \$2,000 and \$1,000 a year.

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